



DE CURAÇAOSCHE COURANT.

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Mengelingen.

De tegenwoordigen staat van de krijgsmagt der Grieken.

De gewapende magt der Grieken juist op te geven, is by de dagelyksche afwisseling, by het gestadig af en aan komen dergenen, die de wapenen dragen, niet mogelijk; doch by overslag zal dezelve ongeveer op twintig duizend nederkomen. Doch hierby moet men in aanmerking nemen, dat thans iedere Griek het geweer kan dragen en by een gunstigen keer van zaken bereidvaardig zal zyn om een overwinnend leger te versterken. Om nu deze verspreide krachten in beweging te brengen en tot één doel te vereenigen, zou de overkomst van eenige Europese bataljons met eenige honderd man ruitery en enkele batterijen geschut noodig, maar ook voldoende zyn. Griekenland kan, van de Jonische eilanden af, naar de tegenwoordige gesteldheid, in éenen veldtocht ten eenemale bevryd en geregeld worden, zonder dat Engeland zyne magt aldaar met een enkel man behoeft te vermeerderen. Op zich zelf is de Griek roekeloos, de beste schutter van de wereld, daarbij matig, volhardend en van eene onbegrypelyke behendigheid; maar hy kent en leert zonder voorbeeld niet, om in massa en met gesloten gelederen te vechten. Een aanval van ruitery dryft hunne carré uit een, en zy vlieden des te ligter, om dat zy door hunne snelheid in het loopen, als gejaagde reën, den besten ruitier ontkomen. Een treurig voorbeeld hiervan heeft men gezien in de vlakke van Athene, en de militaire flater welke de generaal Church en andere opperhoofden der Grieken hier gemaakt hebben is onvergeeflyk. Men laat het leger dat omtrent Athene geland was in de vlakke optrekken zonder verkenningen wegens den vyand te doen. De voortreffelyke Turksche kavallerie achter het olyvenbosch verborgen valt het Grieksche leger dat geheel uit infanterie bestaat, overwachts op het lyf, ongelukkig hadden de Grieken zich niet willen beleeren om het bajonet te gebruiken, want door het vormen van een bataillon carré, welke de kavallerie het bajonet toekeert, is zuik een attake ligt afte weren, doch thans is de Grieksche linie in eens doorgebroken, het geheele leger in wanorde, de Turksche kavallerie hakt er in en meer dan twee duizend Grieken blyven op het slagveld liggen. Ondersteund door eenige bataljons Europese gevefende krygsglieden, die de Turksche legerschaaren terugdryven en de aanvallen der ruitery verlammen konden, zouden zy zich ook wel aan eenen geregelden oorlog gewennen, en; door voorbeeld en goeden uitslag, de gehoorzaamheid en dapperheid van de Europese soldaten zich eigen maken.— Eene zoodanige hulp, en derzelve eerste zegepraal, het zy tegende Arabieren in den Peloponnesus, of tegen de Albanenzen in Attika, zou de geheele natie elektriseren, en indien het niet aan de middelen tot de eerste uitrusting ontbrak, zou deze geestdrift de heillegers vullen. De daardoor gesteekte bemiddelende magt zou de partyen knotten en eene krachtadige regering aan het hoofd plaatsen en beschermen kunnen.— De onuitputtelijke hulpsbronnen, welke het geregelde en tot rust gebragte land openen konden, zouden meer dan voldoende zyn, om elke schuld te kwyten, die hunne bevryding veroorzaakt had. Ibrahim Pacha heeft in de vestingen en in het binnenste van den Peloponnesus ongeveer 10,000

man, meest geregelde troepen; nogtans is zyne infanterie zwak en zou zelfs niet tegen den eersten schok van Europese taktiek bestand zyn; ook zyne artillerie is slecht, zwak bediend en van weinig uitwerking.— De Grieksche vloot zou 200 zeilen kunnen tellen; maar dezelve behooren aan zeer uitgeputte byzondere personen. Deze wapenen dezelve alleen, wanneer hun eene maand soldy vooruit betaald wordt, maar dan doen zy het ook oogenbliklyk en houden het trouw uit tot den laatsten oogenblik van den bedongen tyd. Daar de zeelieden meest vaders van huisgezinnen zyn, die vrouw en kinderen onderhouden moeten, zoo kan het hun tot geen verwyf strekken, wanneer zy by het uitzeilen het grootste gedeelte hunner soldy, als een middel om in hun bestaan te voorzien, aan dezelve willen achterlaten. Zy zyn voortreffelyke zeelieden, onverschrokken soldaten, tot de koenste ondernemingen bereid, en het is duidelyk, dat de Grieksche regering, om eene geachte zeemogendheid te worden, slechts een klein getal eigene groote schepen noodig heeft, daar by eene behoorlyke bezuiniging van middelen, steeds een aanmerkelyk getal van deze uitstekende zeelieden ter harer beschikking staat. Gelukt het lord Cochrane, door het ten uitvoer brengen van eenige gelukkige togten, de middelen te vinden, welke hem, by de armoede der regering, door deze niet kunnen worden verstrekt, dan zal men weldra de zeemagt, als het sterkste belwerk voor de Grieksche onafbankelykheid, weder in hare volle kracht zien te voorschyn treden.

Over de hulp, door de groote mogendheden aan de Grieken te betoonen.

Eindelyk zal dan de wensch van alle vrienden van beschaving en menschelykheid worden verhoord. De groote Mogendheden (behalve Oostenryk en het minder daartoe gelegene Pruissen) gaan zich de zaak der Grieken krachtadiglyk aantrekken, en zullen, tusschen beiden komen, om die verdrukten aan de klauwen hunner moordenaars te ontrukken.

Wie vereenigt zich niet gaarne met ons in betuigingen van hartelyke vreugde over dit ontwerp, hetwelk eindelyk aan het overschot der zonen van Helias rust en verademing doet vooruitzien!

Maar tevens dringt zich aan elken vriend der menschheid de niet onnatuurlyke vraag op: *waarom werd dit besluit niet reeds vroeger genomen?*

Men ziet nu, dat zich geene staatkundige onmogelykheid, om wegens de zaken van Turkye en Griekenland overeen te komen, daartegen verzette. Integendeel blykt het zeer duidelyk, dat het schrikbeeld, waarmede de Turkenvrienden altyd geschermd hebben; "de oorlog met het Turksche Ryk zal het evenwigt van Europa verbreken," eene hersenschim was.

Het evenwigt van Europa wordt niet verbroken, wanneer men aan geene verovering denkt, maar zich slechts onderling vereenigt, om eene lydende natie aan euen geheelen ondergang te ontrukken, zonder daarom eigene byzondere voordeelen te bedingen. Maar dit zelfde, hetwelk de groote Mogendheden in 1827 begrypen, konden zy in 1821, op zyn laatst in 1822 begrepen hebben, en is hun toen geboezzaam door meer dan eenen schryver—wat zeg ik! door geheele stapels geschriften—onder het oog gebragt.

Hadden zy dien maatregel toen by de

hand genomen, hoe onuitsprekelyk veel ellende zou er zyn voorgekomen, hoe vele stormen bloeds niet geplengil, hoe vele heerlyke streken niet zyn verwoest? Het paradys Chio, het schiet-eiland Cassandrie, het vruchtbare Kreta, de westelyke en Middelpeloponnesus, de streek van Missolonghi en die stad zelve, een gedeelte van Livadie en Thessalie, vooral het wereldberoemde Attika, zyn na dien tyd de prooi der barbaren, en daardoor tot afzigtige woestenyen geworden. Dit alles was in 1821 te voorzien, en toch heeft men zich tot nu toe stil gehouden, ja sommige kabinetten hebben zelfs eene blykbare genegeheid en voorkeuze voor de barbaren doen blyken.

Geloof men niet, dat eene enkele goede, krachtadige bedreiging van gewapende tuschenkomst der groote Mogendheden, de Turken, (in het byzonder vóór de uitroeying der nuttelooze Janitsaren) tot redden zou hebben gebragt? Of, zoo men daarmee al had willen vertoeven, denkt men dan niet, dat eene krachtadige waarschuwing aan den Pacha van Egypte, Mohammed Ali, genoegzaam zou geweest zyn, om dezen van de togten naar Europa, onder het bevel zyns zoons, te weerhouden? Eene Fransche en Engelsche nota, te Kairo overgegeven, dat men dien togt als een oorlogsverklaring zou aanzien, zou ongetwyfeld de uitwerking hebben gedaan, dat Morea en Missolonghi door deze moordenaars en brandstichters niet ware bezield geworden, en dus de Grieken hunne magt onverdeeld tegen de Europese Turken hadden kunnen gebruiken.

Maar er was eene reden, waarom men dit niet verkoos te doen. Eigenbaat, vrees om den voordeeligen Turkschen en Egyptischen handel te zullen verliezen, weerhield de mogendheden. Maar waarom verbeffen zy zich dan nu boven deze bedenking? De Turk schynt magtiger dan in langen tyd, en zy vreezen nu niet, hem te beleedigen?

Laten wy het bekennen, de kabinetten zwichten huns ondanks voor de publieke opinie. De ministers zien, dat er in geheel Europa voor de Grieken slechts éene stem is, eene stem die zich al luider en luider verheft, en die zy vreezen dat eindelyk een kreet zal worden. Zoo ver nu willen zy het niet laten komen. Daarenboven dryft hen de schaamte, wanneer zy zien, hoe veel byzondere personen in de Engelsche, Fransche, Nederlandsche, Duitsche, Zwitsersche comité's, vereenigd, reeds voor de zaak der menschelykheid hebben gedaan, om toch het verwyf der nakomelingschap niet te verdienen, van niets voor die ongelukkigen te hebben verrigt. Eindelyk moeten zy iets doen, om aan de kaperijen der zeeroovers, die den Archipel onveilig maken, paal en perk te stellen. Dit zyn meestal door verlies der hunnen, gebrek en hongertot wanhoop gedreven Grieken. Zullen de mogendheden nu om dezen de Natie beoorloogen? Dit kunnen, dit mogen zy niet. Zy besluiten dus te regt, om liever, door de Turken tot rede te brengen, de bron dier rampen te stoppen; en hierin handelen zy gewis echt staatkundig en zedelyk.

Maar nog eens: waarom werd dit besluit niet voor 5 à 6 jaren genomen? Wat denken de ministers dat de nakomelingschap daarop antwoorden zal?

s'Gravenhage, 25sten April.— Daar er van tyd tot tyd verschillende berigten in

tioned a lady whose personal attractions could not expiate what in the eyes of his father was an insuperable bar to the union—the crime of being destitute of fortune. This parent, like many others, resolved to aggravate an evil he could not remedy, and he discarded his son, upon an allowance of about 150*l.* per annum. Under these circumstances Mr. Canning left Ireland, and repaired to London—that great mart for talents, and republic of literature. In the metropolis he soon attracted the attention of men of wit, and was the associate of Whitehead, Keats, Cawthorn, Churchill, Lloyd, the elder Coleman, and at length distinguished himself as the zealous and able partizan of Wilkes. He had entered the Middle Temple; but his habits were rather calculated to reap intellectual enjoyment and the admiration of the ingenious, than to acquire business. In Ireland he had produced several tracts and poetical pieces of merit. The first was his celebrated poetical epistle, written by the patriot Lord William Russell, in his cell in Newgate, on the night before his martyrdom, July 20, 1683, and addressed to his friend, the spirited and admired Mr. Cavendish.

The parting address to Lady Rachel Russell is quite characteristic of that conjugal affection which is known to have been so dearly cherished by this ill-fated but highly accomplished pair.

There were several other poems, breathing great pathos, and a spirit above the lucre of the world. One of these attracted much attention. It was a Birth Day Ode addressed to his future wife, on her attaining the age of twenty-one.

Finding his profession at the Bar flat and unprofitable, Mr. Canning set up the business of a wine merchant, in which he was far from successful; and he afterwards made several other attempts to support himself, but they were all equally abortive. Having struggled against accumulated misfortune, he at length died of a broken heart on the 11th of April, 1771, shortly after the birth of his illustrious son. His remains were interred in Mary-la-Bonne new burying ground (Paddington street). The penury in which he lived, though arising from his marriage, had never lessened his affections for his wife, nor occasioned a regret at his union. Their love was reciprocal, and its sincerity and permanency on the part of the wife, as well as their mutual concord, are pathetically expressed in the following epitaph, which she wrote and placed upon his tomb:—

“Thy virtue and my woe no words can tell!

Therefore a little while, my George, farewell!

For faith and love like ours Heaven has in store

Its last, best gift—to meet and part no more.”

So utterly destitute was this unhappy lady left by the death of her husband, that she was obliged for her maintenance to attempt the stage, and she appeared as Jane Shore to Garrick's Lord Hastings. Her broken spirits, and repugnance to her new mode of life, destroyed the vivacity and ease which are indispensably requisite to excite the admiration and secure the applause of a London audience. She, however, was compelled to accept of provincial engagements, and at length married a person of the same profession, of the name of Hunn. Her son is now a Post Captain in the Navy.

Mr. Canning, who was only a few months old at his father's death, was left to the bounty of an uncle, a merchant, who, from affection, and partly from distinguishing his precocity of talents, contrived at length to send him, with all fair advantages, to Eton. Here his progress was so rapid as to obtain him a distinguished rank among his contemporaries; and at the age of fifteen we find him one of the senior scholars. These youthful indications of talent were the elements of his fortune—the materials of that fabric of power and fame, of which circumstances may have been the architect, but of which he was himself the sole builder. On this point he may with truth say—*hæc sub numine nos nobis fecimus, sapientia duce, fortuna permittente.* No doubt his education in early, as well as more advanced youth, was most favourable to the development of his peculiar faculties. From his parents he inherited a taste for literature. His father, as we have already observed, being the associate of the *litterati* of his day, and the author of several verses then much admired; and his mother is still attractive for her various and elegant accomplishments. At Eton, where he was “Captain,” a strong rivalry existed against the Harrow boys—a rivalry that induced young Canning, then in his fifteenth year (in 1786), & other clever Etonians, to set up a periodical work, as well to assert a literary preeminence as to give vent to their antagonist feelings. The work was appropriately called *The Microcosm*, and it afterwards appeared that Mr. Canning was the Editor, under the name of Gregory Griffin. His associate contributors were Mr. John Smith, who assumed the letter A., Mr. Canning taking B.; Mr. Robert Smith, who wrote under the letter C.; Mr. John Freere, who used the letter D.; and Messrs. Mellish, Way, and Littlehales, and Lord H. Spencer. The Papers were published every week; the first appearing on Monday, 6th November, 1786; and the last on Monday, July 30, 1787. Mr. Canning wrote ten or twelve Papers, viz.—Nos. 2, 5, 7, 11, 12, 22, 26, 30, 31, 39. His contributions, considering that he was then innly his sixteenth year, are remarkably happy. They display much wit, and a vein of light, satirical humour. But, in some of his Papers, he is successful in his efforts at more powerful composition. The Republics of Greece and Rome never fail to kindle the genius and excite the ardent aspirations after liberty, in minds classically educated and of any natural powers. Mr. Canning apostrophised Greece in a poem, in the English heroic manner; the theme has formed a subject

for many juvenile and adult geniuses, and we know not one of the former by whom Mr. Canning is excelled. Lord Byron's simile of Greece surpasses all things, but it is of another class, and was written at a later age.

The second number of “*The Microcosm*” was written when Mr. Canning was only sixteen. It is a fair specimen of the precocity of his talents, and bears many marks of his style in after life. The Paper is in itself good, and of the style of the Essays in the “*Spectator*.”

It is obvious that these essays are from one who had read *The Spectator*, and the old style of English essays. They are very Addisonian in their school, but are qualified by Mr. Canning's somewhat elaborate style of dila-tation. *The Microcosm* was inscribed to the Rev. Dr. Davies, the head master of the School.

For several years a Society had periodically met in a Hall at Eton, for the purpose of discussion. The masters properly encouraged the practice for its obvious utility. It was a little House of Commons. Mr. Speaker took the Chair: a Minister sat on a Treasury Bench, and faced as bold an Opposition as Eton could produce. “The Noble Lord,” “the Right Hon. Gentleman,” “my Honourable Friend,” were bandied from side to side.—The order, the gravity, the importance of the original assembly, were mimicked with the greatest success.—In the miniature Senate the Crown and the People had their respective champions. The advocates were as solemn, as eager for victory, and as active in obtaining it, as the more mature debaters of the Parliament itself.—Mr. Wellesley (now Marquess Wellesley), Mr. Grey (now Earl Grey), and at a subsequent period Mr. Canning, distinguished themselves in the intellectual warfare of this juvenile House of Commons.

Mr. Canning afterwards entered at Christ Church, Oxford, where he chiefly distinguished himself as a Latin scholar, and gained several prizes; but he likewise attracted notice by his orations, which bore that character of high ornament and poetical figures and imagery which were so observable in his subsequent productions. At Christ Church, he was the fellow Collegian of Mr. Jenkinson, now Lord Liverpool; but though a friendship was formed between them, no dispositions could be more at variance. Mr. Canning's heart was warm, his temper frank, and his disposition ingenuous; his mind was lively, and his studies elegant as well as solid. Mr. Jenkinson was cold and reserved of manner; and his study, laborious and dull, was servively followed at the dictation of his father. Yet these opposite characters rose to equal honours in the State; the former by talents alone, the latter by birth and facility of adapting himself to men and circumstances. Leaving Oxford, Mr. Canning entered for the Bar, at Lincoln's Inn, intending to make the law his profession and the source of his support, for he was almost destitute. But his talents had attracted the attention of the first Lord Lansdown, who had predicted to Mr. Bentham, that he would one day be Prime Minister of England. At that period it is known, that the party leaders in the House of Commons used attentively to watch the Colleges and public schools for young men who displayed the marks of decided genius, in order to enlist them under their banners. But Mr. Canning well knew that his father was of the most liberal public principles, and he had been bred by his uncle in all the free doctrines of the Old Whig school.—Men of any talents and goodness of heart, are always in their youth inclined to the most liberal side, being inspired with the love of freedom by the classic authors of Greece and Rome. Mr. Canning, by his mother's side, was also related to Mr. Sheridan, who, then in his zenith, introduced him to Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, Mr. Grey, and the other great Whig Leaders. With such opportunities, Mr. Canning was likely to have higher aspirations than the bar. At this period he was a constant frequenter of a debating society held at Old Bond-street, which was said to consist of all speakers and no hearers. Mr. Sheridan, however, was an attentive listener to the speeches of his young relative, and he was so confirmed in his judgment of his powers, that he reported to Mr. Fox the certainty of his future eminence, could he be brought in the House of Commons. But similar reports had been made to Mr. Pitt, and to either side Mr. Canning would have been an acquisition. Mr. Burke had most shrewdly pointed out to the young aspirant, that his style of oratory and class of intellect were less adapted to the Bar than to public business and the Senate.—Mr. Canning's reminiscences, his education, and his fine understanding, had disposed him to a love of freedom, and had given him a strong inclination to that side which took the most liberal view of public measures; but Mr. Sheridan, with more private sincerity and disinterested attachment than public honesty, had convinced him that liberal notions and exalted principles of freedom are productive of nothing but empty fame, and the admiration of the vulgar, whilst it was certain and irretrievable ruin for a poor man to enter the House of Commons with a view to public business, unless he was predetermined to devote his talents to the support of the Minister—for talents, united with a flexible disposition and “a learned spirit of human dealings,” the House of Commons is the richest market in the world. In 1793, Sir Richard Worsley was induced to vacate his seat for Newport, in the Isle of Wight, and Mr. Canning was returned for the borough, being then in the twenty-third year of his age. He remained in the House a year without taking any part in debate, the world being in suspense as to which side of the House he would give support. But Mr. Sheridan, in complimenting Mr. Jenkinson (now Lord Liverpool), had anticipated the accession which the Whig party was to gain by the talents of another gentleman, the friend and companion of the

young orator who had just sat down. This was an allusion to Mr. Canning, and the public expectations were now both fixed and excited. On 31st. January, 1794, Mr. Fox assailed the treaty by which Mr. Pitt had granted a very large subsidy to the King of Sardinia, for promises to fight his own battles, and to support a number of troops, contemptible in quality, and numerically disproportioned to the magnitude of the subsidy. Mr. Grey and Mr. Sheridan had spoken, when Mr. Canning rose and delivered his maiden speech to a most attentive auditory. The young orator obtained great applause, but we cannot in candour say that the speech was calculated to gain the approbation of reflective persons; it was adapted exclusively to the sphere of the House, and showed an extraordinary aptitude in taking up either side of a question. It evinced a facility of defending what was expedient, in opposition to what was right; and, for so young a man, it afforded proofs of a most extraordinary tact at giving a gloss of decency and plausibility to what was essentially bad, and at using the style of arguments adapted to please and satisfy an audience previously determined by other motives to be convinced on the speaker's side. Mr. Canning's chief arguments were precedents, and particularly the precedent of our large subsidy to Frederick the Great; as if there could be any parity between a hero with his iron-hearted veterans, and a degenerate, pusillanimous King, with an army of dastardly bigots. But Mr. Canning was now received with open arms by Mr. Pitt. He had evinced what in the House of Commons is by far more valuable than genius—the only quality of any use in that Assembly—the power to afford men a plausible reason for doing what they are determined to do, on grounds totally distinct from intellectual or moral conviction. Mr. Burke sat in the House for two years after his speech, and it is asserted that Mr. Canning was an enthusiastic admirer of his oratory and principles. No later than last Session he declared, that every new step Ministers are now taking in the career of national improvement emanated from that mighty genius, and would serve to confirm the sagacity of his judgment, revive the sense of his merits, and add new lustre to his reputation. In one of his largest pieces in *The Anti-Jacobin*, ‘New Morality,’ which is moreover but a paraphrase of Burke's ‘Reflections on the French Revolution,’ he apostrophised Burke at great length.

In 1796, Mr. Pitt appointed Mr. Canning one of the Under Secretaries of State, under Lord Grenville, in the Foreign Office. He now became a frequent speaker in the House, and distinguished himself by his Ultra Toryism, & by his more liberal vehemence in support of Mr. Wilberforce's truly excellent efforts to modify, if not to suppress, the Slave Trade. Mr. Canning, however, was still without any income, save his official salary and perquisites, and it was contrived to provide for him and another juvenile supporter of Mr. Pitt's by a matrimonial scheme. A General Scott had been the most successful gamester in Europe. He had left an immense property and three daughters. Two of these were procured for Mr. Canning and the Marquess of Titchfield. But with the latter, a difficulty presented itself which the Law Courts or Equity Courts could not overcome. General Scott had disinherited his daughters, should they marry Peers. A Minister, however, is omnipotent in Parliament, and a Bill was brought in to enable the Marquess to marry Miss Scott, on his assuming the agnomen of Scott; and thus, by an *ex post facto* law, the marriage was effected in violation of the will of the father. Mr. Canning, in 1799, married one of the sisters; the third was the Countess of Down. Mr. Canning had assumed almost a Tory mania; and in 1798, in conjunction with Mr. Frere and Mr. Ellis, he became the conductor of *The Anti-Jacobin*; or, *Weekly Examiner*—a work which administered to the virulence of party, and to which nothing but the wit and elegance of Mr. Canning, and the ardent spirit of the times could have given currency or a temporary fame. In this celebrated vehicle of party animosity, wit, sarcasm, irony, vituperation, and every possible weapon, were used to degrade and misrepresent the French leaders, and to render the liberal party in England ridiculous, if not odious, in the eyes of the country.

In this also he published his “New Morality,” a severe satire on the reigning follies and vices, in the style of the Imitations of Horace, or rather of Juvenal, which had so well succeeded with Giffard and others.

In 1810, the country had been brought by Mr. Pitt to the brink of such a fearful precipice, that scarcely a man not actually connected with the Treasury Benches could tolerate the idea of persevering in the same course. Mr. Pitt was obliged, under the pretence of the Catholic Question, to shelter himself from the storm; and Mr. Canning had so offended all his first associates by his excessive Ultraism, that he was compelled to retire from office with his patron. He resigned his place in 1801. The Administration of Mr. Addington (now Lord Sidmouth) was formed, and Mr. Canning did not oppose the Address to the Throne voted on the occasion, but he soon evinced the most determined animosity to Government. Whilst he was assailing Ministers within the walls of Parliament with all the vehemence of his oratory, he was playing the part of a Pasquin in the Press, by lampooning the Members of the Cabinet, and by exhausting his talents for ridicule upon the person of Mr. Addington and his family connections. He amused himself with the composition of many political squibs, directed chiefly against Mr. Addington, who was styled ‘the Doctor,’ from his father having been the keeper of a Lunatic Asylum in Berkshire.

(To be continued.)